

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOGO – Food Organics and Garden Organics**

Coonamble Shire Council is required under the NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy to introduce a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service for households by 2030, with commercial premises required to comply by 2026.

Implementing the service locally would require the purchase and rollout of around 2,000 new bins, the establishment of a weekly collection service, and transporting organic waste to the nearest processing facility in Dubbo due to the lack of local infrastructure.

The estimated first-year cost to establish and operate the service is approximately \$354,000, with ongoing annual costs of around \$254,000. These costs would result in a significant increase to the Domestic Waste Management Charge for residents.

Due to Coonamble Shire's low population density, small volumes of organic waste, long transport distances and limited capacity for the community to absorb additional costs, Council considers the service neither financially viable nor environmentally efficient.

As a result, Council is exploring the NSW EPA's custom exemption framework, which allows councils facing unique circumstances to seek an exemption where compliance would create an unreasonable financial burden without delivering proportional community or environmental benefit.

Greg Hill  
**GENERAL MANAGER**